

Mid-month news – September 2020

Dear Friends,



I recently splashed out on a new 'guest bike'. Now all I need is some guests to ride it (hint). It rides like a dream, but is built like a tractor, so weighs a ton (one gear, good for carrying heavy loads, downhill). (My old bike is behind it, that weighs only 0.9 tons.) On the right above, was a 'baby dedication' that I attended 2 weeks ago. (We call it '*golo nyathi*'. To find out what we did and why, read Leviticus 12.)

I am discovering that novel-writing can be quite absorbing. Earlier today, as I was writing another chapter for my Luo language novel that endeavours to articulate Biblical messages in local idiom, I was almost in tears myself getting carried away by the emotion of the story I was telling! Pray for me as I write this 'exciting' account designed for children.

Give thanks for ways in which churches here are opening. In fact – it is hard from here to believe that in the UK many churches are not yet returned to in-person gatherings. For people around here, zoom was never an option, or anything else on the internet, making us doubly glad to meet with people face to face. We are to have a gathering at my home on the 10th September.

International travel beginning to open up, has 'livened things up' here at the Coptic mission. We have a few Egyptian ladies recently arrived who are helping to keep things ticking over. One may be here for the longer term. Give thanks for the opportunities I am periodically given to share with folks present; it seems as a local missionary 'grandfather figure'!

One of my children, a widow who is now a mother of teenagers, is struggling to live through AIDS, even while consuming ARVs (anti-retro-virals) regularly. A local pastor recently lost his son in a motorbike accident as a result of which his wife had to have both her legs amputated. Pray for these folks, and others like them, struggling with life around here.

Yours,

Jim Harries